The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the 37th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D.C.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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THE SHRINE OF MAMMON

Washington, Aug. 31.—In a recent article coming from Wall street, we are pleased to see, it is asserted that there is a general improvement in the business of the railroads, as evidenced from the increase of their gross trade for the period between the first week of July and the first week of August. These reports show an increase of 10 per cent in gross earnings over the same period of last year. Traffic has been steadily improving, with moderate increases in all classes of freight. The Canadian Pacific in its annual report states that the road earned $11,520 gross per mile, with maintenance charges of $1,620 per mile. Preliminary estimates of Atlantic City gross earnings placed the increase at $600,000, but the actual gain was $700,000. It was the biggest July in Atchison's history. After being liberal with maintenance expenses, the company increased its net earnings $950,000, or nearly 23 per cent. Earnings of $20,000,000 for the third quarter of the United States Steel Corporation are being prophesied, meaning an increase of $5,000,000 over the second quarter. And from every financial publication can be read the same stories.

ORDERS MINE INQUIRY.

Washington, Aug. 31.—It is reported from Charleston, W. Va., that Governor Glasscock, in spite of the refusal of the coal operators, has ordered Judge Cable, Creek coal fields to participate, has appointed a commission to investigate the conditions existing in the mining camps. The operators want the department of mines of the State to make the investigation, but as the head of this department is a large coal operator, it is apparent that the operators hope to avoid the revealing of the true state of affairs if the investigation is conducted by the department. In the Kanawha district of West Virginia there are 5,000 coal miners on strike, and the nonunion miners of the entire field are working under the conditions obtaining, and many are on strike. The union coal fields of Pittsburg and other sections, it is stated, are rapidly succeeding in securing the West Virginia market owing to the present difficulty.

BUILDING TRADES DEPT.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The executive council of the Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, at its recent session concurred in the action taken by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor in revoking the charter of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, and authorizing the amalgamated society was removed from the roster of organizations affiliated with the Building Trades Department. In the matter of the dispute between the carpenters, machinists, and ironworkers in a number of localities in St. Louis the council invoked section 4 of the constitution of the Building Trades Department, which provides for arbitration, with an appeal to the executive council of the department at the next convention of the Building Trades Department. The Stationary Firemen made application for affiliation, but definite action was not taken.

QUESTIONING CANDIDATES.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The California State Federation of Labor, the Building Trades Council of California, and the San Francisco Labor Council have agreed on a list of questions to be propounded to the candidates to the next State Legislature. The questions relate to the extension of the eight-hour and hour law to cannery workers, enlarging the State bureau of labor statistics, for the further restriction of private employment bureaus, for curbing the power of judges in issuing injunctions in labor disputes, and other measures of interest to labor. While publicity will be given to the answers to these questions in order that the public may be made acquainted with the attitude of candidates for legislative positions upon the various measures which will come before the incoming Legislature.

PROMOTIONS AND INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Immediately upon the signature of the President being attached to the post-office appropriation bill the Postmaster General will put into effect the promotion of 7,000 clerks and carriers in first and second-class offices and assistant postmasters, as provided for in the law. The promotions and increases that go with them will also been dated back to the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1; thus, it is estimated, nearly $3,000,000 will be required to meet the payments of increased salaries from July 1 to the date on which the increases appropriated for by the law go into effect. It is stated that the dating back to July 1 was discretionary with the department, which could have ordered August 24, if it had been so disposed.

STRIKE BENEFITS HEAVY.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Secretary Morrison's report to the Executive Council at its last session showed that during the first ten months of this fiscal year $90,- 877.39 had been paid out of the defense fund for constitutional strike benefits to local trade and federal labor unions. This is the largest amount ever required by the American Federation of Labor in benefits in that length of time. There still remains, however, in the defense fund $87,136.97.

BLACKSMITHS' MOVEMENTS.

Chicago, Aug. 31.—Recently the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths has succeeded in signing up agreements with the Pere Marquette and Michigan Central Michigan Railroads, securing improved conditions and a substantial increase in wages. Arrangements are now on foot in Canada, and local unions have been organized at Halifax, N. S.; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Hamilton, Ont. A new local has also been established at Rochester, N. Y.

GLASS PACKERS' STRIKE.

Bellaire, Ohio, Aug. 31.—The local union of Glass Packers in this city, which has been on strike for a number of weeks, is still out, but the line is still unbroken by the loss of a single striker. Strike-breakers have been shipped in from New York, but the strikers are unconcerned.

DOCK STRIKE SUCCESSFUL.

Washington, Aug. 31.—It is reported from Albany, N. Y., that the recent dock strike against the Long Island docks resulted in the dock strikers returning an increase in wages and the discharge of all strike-breakers and all former employes reinstated.

CONTRACT FOR GUNBOAT.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Navy Department has awarded the contract for building river gunboat No. 18 to the navy yard at Mare Island, Cal. The boat is to be a duplicate of the Monocacy, the contract for which was recently awarded to the same yard.

LABOR MAN ON COMMISSION

Washington, Aug. 31.—When the Esterling bill, or experimental provision for a parcels post was incorporated in the post-office appropriation bill, it was also provided that a commission be created to study the question of the parcels post feature with a view to making recommendations rectifying defects, and also extending the parcels post. In naming this kind it has always been customary to appoint members of the committees having charge of the subjects to be investigated. In this instance, however, owing to the fact that David J. Lewis, of Maryland, a coal miner, is an expert on the subject of parcels post and express transportation, he has been appointed by Postmaster Clark as one of the three commissioners from the House of Representatives. Congressman Finley of South Carolina and Congressman Gardner of New Jersey being the other two.

CURTAIL SUNDAY MAIL.

Washington, Aug. 31.—By the terms of the post-office appropriation bill it is stipulated that all first and second class post-offices are to be closed on Sunday. Heretofore, where local sentiment demanded, local postmasters have been permitted to keep general delivery windows open during certain hours, but under the new law this will not be permitted. The only way in which to get letters to their destination hereafter on Sunday will be to put a special delivery stamp on them, as it is provided that special delivery letters shall be delivered on Sunday. Mail will be distributed in post-office boxes up to midnight of each Sunday, and access to boxes will be allowed. This will give the greater portion of the post-office employes an entire day off, only a sufficient force being kept on to handle mail in transit at junction points, hotel mail to be considered in this class and distributed in boxes in post-offices.

LABOR IN DEMAND.

Washington, Aug. 31.—A prominent trade review publication, in discussing the present industrial and commercial situation, states that from the steel industry nothing but the most favorable reports are forthcoming, plants being employed to the limit, and the demand for pig, stocks of pig iron being reduced, and the demand by the railroads and other consumers for the last quarter for structural steel corporation needs 5,000 men, and needs them badly, and is not only advertising for them, but sending out canvassers to look for them. In the automobile, furniture, and other industries in certain sections of the country the shortage of labor is keenly felt. In fact, the labor situation during the present activity in many commercial enterprises, with a corresponding dearth of available labor to supply a most insistent demand.

LOOK INTO BUYING TRUST.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Both Houses of Congress have passed a resolution providing for a special Congressional commission to ascertain whether there is a tobacco buying combination existing between the governments of Italy, Australia, France, Spain, and Japan to determine the price of tobacco on the open cash market. Buyers from these countries are buyers or purchasers of American tobacco, but it is asserted that competition between them has been a dead letter for years, and the prices paid have steadily declined until the American grower is said to be forced to dispose of his crop at a price lower than the growing cost. Three Senators and three members of the House of Representatives will compose the commission.

GAIN RENOMINATIONS.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Senator Bacon and Congressman Bartlett, both of Georgia, have been renominated. It will be remembered that Senator Bacon introduced in the State an antiinjunction bill, carrying with it a clause taking the labor organizations out of the scope of the operation of the Sherman anti-trust law, the bill being far-reaching in its scope. Congressman Bartlett introduced the same bill in the House, which was referred to the Labor Committee, and was reported out favorably, and is now on the calendar. The Clayton injunction limitation bill, however, was passed by the House, and is now before a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate.

SUIT AGAINST PASSES.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Attorney General has filed suit in the Commerce Court to get that court to enjoin the issue passes to the employes of 'bus lines operating entirely within the city and also to employes of steamship lines not engaged in interstate commerce. The suit is against the Erie and Jersey Central Railroad Companies. Passes are now issued to representatives of 'bus and transfer lines, who handle trains carried into out from large cities and arrange with passengers to deliver baggage and transfer checks at destination. The contention of the Attorney General is that under the anti-pass law it is unlawful to issue passes in the manner stated.

NEWSPAPER SCALE SIGNED.

San Antonio, Aug. 31.—A new agreement has been entered into between the Typographical Union, which takes in Texoline Light and San Antonio Express. The new scale provides for an increase of $2 per hour for the day men and $1 per hour for the night men, and also increases the piece scale of the machine men. The nine hours have been reduced to a minimum of seven and one-half for the floor men and to six and one-half for the night men. Overtime after eight hours, price and a half. The agreement runs for three years.

WORK DAY LIMIT FAVORED.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The House bill limiting the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed upon public works of the United States, and all persons in constructing roads, canals, and improving rivers and harbors, has been favorably reported to the House from the Committee on Labor. Similar bills have been introduced in the Senate by Senators Borah and Lodge, but the strikes are unknown to the Committee on Education and Labor, but did not pass before Congress adjourned. The committee called the predicament to light before the bill.

GAIN IN MEMBERSHIP.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The gain in the average membership of the American Federation of Labor in the first ten months of the fiscal year ending July 31, 1912, over the first ten months of the fiscal year ended July 31, 1911, was 34,167.

CEMENT WORKERS.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The cement workers of Pittsburg, Kans., have reorganized. The general condition in the cement industry is reported to be good.

MANUFACTURER WHO HAS HUMANITARIAN INSTINCTS

Washington, Aug. 31.—The following article, sent to the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor from Grand Rapids, Mich., and purported to have been published in the Press of that city, is of such an unusual character that it is extremely interesting. It is indeed refreshing to discover a man who, though he is employed in the capacity of secretary of an employers' association, is broad and large enough and sufficiently courageous to express himself as opposed to the ordinary methods employed by manufacturers' associations. The article is printed in full:

"As representative of seven employers' associations who is in Washington watching legislation has sent Secretary Linton, of the National Furniture organization, a statement in which he urges the furniture makers to protest to members of Congress against favorable reports upon the Clayton anti-Injunction bill and the contempt of court bill fathered by the same author. Mr. Linton referred the statement to George P. Hummer, of this city, for action, as Mr. Hummer is a member of the executive committee. His reply, as follows, will be read with general interest:

"'John S. Linton, Grand Rapids, Mich.: I am in receipt of your favor with inclosure which is herewith returned. I do not believe that the statement by the writer who signs this statement is the proper one. The industrial and economic unrest which seems to possess a large part of our population will not be removed or mitigated by an uncompromising attitude on the part of those against whom the results of this unrest are aimed. I believe that the thoughtful men of the country have got to meet conditions fairly and intelligently, making concessions where equity and the widening intelligence of the people demand.

"'It may be necessary to go even further than the thoughtful judgment of intelligent men feel is wise, but I am satisfied that the great mass of the people are determined in their efforts to seek relief from conditions which they think are not just and equitable; and while I personally feel that present conditions are not nearly as inequitable as the public at large and both of our people seem to think, I will not only have to meet actual conditions in the minds of the people, but psychological conditions as well.

"'If the remedies the people are demanding fail to bring relief or tend to aggravate conditions, these remedies can be abandoned by the same force that brought them into existence, but there is no doubt in my mind that there is an indefinable feeling among the great mass of people that great wrongs exist in the social body exist, and they are determined that something must be done to seek a remedy. My opinion is that a spirit of indifference to these demands, and a determination to stand still, will only aggravate the matter and ultimately result in disaster. It is no time for the employer to be a reactionary. It is my opinion that it is unnecessary to do anything at the present time respecting the measures mentioned now before Congress. Yours very truly,

GEORGE P. HUMMER."

Mr. Hummer, it is reported, is proprietor of the West Michigan Furniture Company, located at Holland, Mich.

COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS.

Montreal, Aug. 31.—The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America has reached an agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company by which men will receive increased pay of not less than $5 per month. The new agreement carries with it a schedule of wages ranging from $55 a month in Eastern Canada, and from $50 to $100 per month in Western Canada. In addition to the increase in wages, each telegrapher will be entitled to two weeks' vacation with pay after four years' of service. Under the agreement the union has established the highest wage scale for commercial telegraphers in the country, and secures the maximum wage in Canada considerably above that paid in the United States. The agreement is a step to organize the employes of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The latter company continues to backlash and refuses to permit its employes to become members of the union.

OHIO UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Ohio State Federation of Labor is conducting an active campaign to secure the adoption of the new constitution, which is expected to be voted on at a special election on September 3. There are many provisions in the proposed constitution which appeal to labor, among them being the initiative and referendum, woman suffrage, uniform 8-hour day, municipal home rule for cities, and numerous other provisions which were incorporated through the influence of the labor and trade unionists that were delegates to the constitutional convention. The manufacturers are fighting the new constitution in opposing the new constitution. This opposition centers in the fight which is being made in an effort to postpone the election, but the constitutional convention dissolved without having set a date, and the efforts to postpone the special election will occur on the date formerly designated, September 3.

FOR MONSTER BATTLESHIP.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The plans for the construction of the one battleship authorized in the closing hours of the second session of the Sixty-second Congress are under way. It is asserted that if the present plans are carried out the battleship No. 45, which will be named the Pennsylvania, will not only be the largest and most powerful ship of the fight. The nonunion pressmen are incompetents, and editions of the papers have been curtailed owing to the inability of the strike-breakers to keep the presses moving. Both of the papers are losing subscribers daily, and are in sympathy with the men who have been locked out.

DEMAND END OF GRADING.

New Bedford, Mass., Aug. 31.—The total abolition of the grading system was the decision reached at the annual executive board of the Weavers' union. A plan for a settlement of the controversy between the union and the manufacturers is presented, but did not include the abolition of the grading system, and it was decided by the union to refer any offer of settlement that did not include wiping out the grading system.

RAISING FUNDS FOR DEFENSE.

San Francisco, Aug. 31.—The officers of the Labor Council have begun a campaign among the local unions to raise a defense fund for Olaf Tveitmoe, Anton Johansson, and Eugene Clarens, indicted for the alleged transportation of high explosives. Officers of the State Federation of Labor are also conducting a similar campaign in the State. The trial of the cases is scheduled to commence October 1 at Indianapolis, Ind.

COMPROMISE AGREEMENT.

Buffalo, Aug. 31.—The strike of freight handlers and dock workers in this port has been settled. The workmen have returned to their positions under a compromise agreement reached with the freight contractors.

CAP MAKERS WIN DEMANDS.

Washington, Aug. 31.—An important victory has been won by the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers in New York after a conference lasting four days between representatives of the employers and the union reached an agreement for a Saturday half holiday the year round and free sewing machines for the operators. It has been the custom heretofore for operatirs to furnish their own machines and maintain them at their own expense, except throughout the East, the winter, without regard to the quantity turned during the next two months. It is thought that the session will be closed in April and May will mean, under the most favorable conditions, a supply one-fourth less than the winter. It is also declared that independent operators, not bound by any schedule of prices of the cloth workers' union, have advanced anthracite 25 cents per ton. A soft pedal is put on, however, by advertising from the dealers that anthracite coal will be distributed in such a way that there will be no scarcity of prices—but prices are not discussed.

JUDGES ABUSE POWER.

Milwaukee, Aug. 31.—At the thirty-fifth annual session of the meeting of the American Bar Association, in session here, Stephen S. Gregory, of Chicago, President of the association, and one of the leading attorneys of the United States, asserted that the power now intrusted to judges was being abused and virtually destroyed by the practice. During his discussion of this question he instanced the action of Justice David Trow Wright, of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, in the celebrated Bucks Stove case, by whose decision Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison, and John Mitchell, of the American Federation of Labor were adjudged in contempt of court and sentenced to terms of imprisonment. Commenting on this drastic exercise of judicial power, President Gregory said: "The abuses powerful enough to confirm the right of free publication, and, ultimately, of free speech."

HYGIENE AND DEMOGRAPHY.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Thirty foreign countries, together with numerous colleges, scientific and altruistic associations will be represented in the International congress on hygiene and demography, which will meet under the auspices of the United States government in Washington, September 23-28. This is the first time the gathering of men held in this country, the former congresses having been held in European cities. Congress has appropriated $150,000 toward the expenses to be incurred, which will probably total $125,000, the balance to be made up by private subscriptions. Between 4,000 and 5,000 delegates and visitors are expected to be in attendance.

ADDRESSED BIG MEETING.

New York, Aug. 31.—President Gompers addressed a large meeting of the striking furriers in this city recently. The furriers have been on strike for a number of weeks, and many settlements have been made with individual manufacturers. Those still on strike are firmly determined to win the contest. The appearance of President Gompers at the meeting had a tendency to stiffen them to remain firm until victory is achieved, evoked an acclaim that demonstrated that the furriers intend to continue the contest until their demands are met.

NECKWEAR MAKERS' UNION.

New York, Aug. 31.—The Neckwear Makers' Union, of this city, has reached an agreement with the manufacturers and contractors to renew the agreements which will expire shortly, with the additional request that a permanent floor be installed in the shops. The union is waging a nonunion war against "bed-room" factories. It is anticipated that amicable agreements will be reached with nearly all employers.

BIG NATURAL MILITIA.

Washington, Aug. 31.—According to a recent report sent out by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce and Labor, the United States has a natural militia of 26,000,664, the inhabitants of possessions of America not entering into the number given. All males between the ages of eighteen and forty-four years are considered as natural militiamen.

AWAITING DECISION.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The board of arbitration, to which was referred the controversy between the locomotive engineers and the Eastern railroads, has not yet been able to complete an examination of all the testimony submitted to the board tribunal. It is expected, however, that the arbitrators will reach a conclusion by the end of the week, and immediately thereafter render its award.

PRESSMEN GET INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The sundry civil bill, which has passed Congress and been signed by the President, provides for a raise in wages of 5 cents per hour for pressmen employed in the Government Printing Office and affects about 125 men. The scale is now 35 cents per hour.

VOTE ON FREE TEXT-BOOKS.

San Francisco, Aug. 31.—At the coming general election there will be voted upon the question of proposing submitted to the people to be decided by the referendum. One of the most important is the measure proposed by the Sullivan amendment, which, if adopted, will instruct the legislature of free text-book in the public schools.

SHINGLE WEAVERS' NOTES.

Seattle, Aug. 31.—The Deming Shingle Company, Littlerock, Wash., has voluntarily increased wages of shingle weavers and Packers 1 cent per thousand over the union scale. The Canyon Lumber and Shingle Company, Roke, Wash., has also voluntarily increased Knot Sawyers' wages above the scale, with the promise that the increase will be raised if organized shingle weavers is in progress at time of the plants in Bellingham, Wash., for the union scale of wages. A new local union has been installed at Mineral, Wash., with forty-five charter members. New mills are being constructed in the latter place, and a consequent increase in membership is assured.

IRON WORKERS STRIKE.

San Francisco, Aug. 31.—The members of the Structural Irons Workers are on strike for an increase of wages from $5 to $6 per day. There has been, so it is affirmed, an understanding among the contracting firms that this increase was to be conceded to, but no definite date set, owing to the fact that it could not be reached as to the time the ironworkers ceased work. Several firms have already granted the increase, among them being the firm of which the local secretary of the Erectors' Association, Walter Ross, is the head, and the entire matter will be adjusted in a short time.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Congress adjourned at 4:36 p. m. on Monday, August 26. There has been more discussion of subjects of labor during the two sessions of the Sixty-second Congress than ever before in the history of the United States. The legislative committee's report, which is now being brought up to date, will embrace the legislative activity of the American Federation of Labor, and give in detail what has been accomplished by the United States and possessions of America not entering into the number given. All mates between the ages of eighteen and forty-four years are considered as natural militiamen.

SHOE WORKERS VICTORS.

Haverhill, Mass., Aug. 31.—The 200 striking block cutters, who quit work July 17, have returned to work following the settlement reached with the manufacturers on shoe trimmings. Price lists have been adopted by the latter granting the cutters a 10 per cent increase and providing for fifty hours as a week's work, with the 54-hour week for the following year, and fifty-nine hours pay, thus bringing the actual increase to approximately 25 per cent.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 31.—Secretary William Weeks, of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, states that a new local union of that organization has just been formed at Butler, Pa. A new schedule has also been secured on the M. K. & T. railroad at Middleport, Ohio, carrying an increase in wages from $2 to $ cents per hour.

CHANGE AFFILIATION.

Dallas, Tex., Aug. 31.—The inside electrical workers of this city have left the local union of the I. B. E. W., and with the recognized organization headed by Secretary McNash, the inside workers of the entire craft in Texas, while formerly with the seceding faction, are now attached to the jurisdiction of the local union of the electrical workers of the American Federation of Labor.

IS AN ODIOUS COMPARISON

Washington, Aug. 31.—During the last several months the Weekly News Letter has noted the more disastrous wrecks and fatalities occurring on the various railway systems of this country, the total being appalling. Recently the English Board of Trade issued a report relative to the safety of travel on English trains. The comparison of the English record with that of American records is an odious one, of affairs that is astounding. On an average only one passenger was killed in England for every 50,000 journeys. This calculation takes no account of journeys made by season ticket holders, so that the risk is really less than the figures indicate. During the first three months of 1912 accidents to the travelling public resulted in the death and injury of 5,052 persons, 26 being killed outright.

FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the organization that is endeavoring to co-operate with labor in many of its efforts, and which this year is making an extra effort to popularize the Labor Sunday idea, to secure a new movement among the churches to actively interest ministers and church workers in a peace and arbitration Commission. The purpose of the new commission, as its platform states, is to extend the influence of the churches toward international good will and brotherhood. The United States Government is calling a meeting of churches of Great Britain, Germany, and America at The Hague Conference that will follow this conference. Information can be secured by addressing Frederick Lynch, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

PROPHESY COAL SHORTAGE.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Associations in the Eastern States made up of retail coal dealers have filed figures and information that there will be a serious shortage of coal throughout the East during winter, without regard to the quantity mined during the next two months. It is claimed that the season opened so late in April and May will mean, under the most favorable conditions, a supply one-fourth less than the winter. It is also declared that independent operators, not bound by any schedule of prices of the coal workers' union, have advanced anthracite 25 cents per ton. A soft pedal is put on, however, by advertising from the dealers that anthracite coal will be distributed in such a way that there will be no scarcity of prices—but prices are not discussed.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS.

Boston, Aug. 31.—The Boston local union of Shoe Workers, No. 229, has increased its 500 members as on March 1. The Regal Shoe Company of Whitman, Mass., has signed a union contract with the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union covering their Millbury, Mass., plant. The contract is one of the four factories operated by the Regal Shoe Company union factories. Substantial increases in wages have been secured in Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Brockton, Mass., and generally throughout the Southern Massachusetts within the last few weeks. A new union has been chartered in Stillwater, Minn.; Amherst, N. Y.; St. Johns, N. F.; Jackson, Tenn., and Herrin, Ill.

DANBURY HATTERS' CASE.

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 31.—The celebrated Danbury hatters' case, which will be remembered as resulting in the assessment of a $250,000 judgment against the Hatters' union, is again on trial here. When the above verdict was rendered an appeal was taken to a higher court, the latter court remanding the case for a new trial, and directing the manner in which the case should be conducted on the new trial. The higher court decided that the conspiracy to boycott the Loewe hats must be proven in each case, and that it was not against the union as a whole, and upon this order a retrial of the case was made necessary. It is likely the case will be long drawn out.

TO REDUCE VETO POWER.

Washington, Aug. 31.—A joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment making only a majority vote of both houses of Congress necessary to override a Presidential veto has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Borah, of Idaho. Under the present law it required a two-thirds majority in both Houses to pass a measure over the President's veto. The resolution was prompted by the fact that President Taft has twice vetoed the legislative, executive and judicial bill after it had twice passed both Houses.

NONUNION GOODS BY MAIL.

Washington, Aug. 31.—In a circular sent out by the Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods it is declared that the Hess & Hopkins Company, of Rockford, Ill., compel every employe to secure a receipt for his wages or else lose his rights to belong to the Brotherhood. The circular further asserts that 90 per cent of the product of this factory is consumed by the Searle-Dressler Company, of Chicago, the big mail order house.

SIXTEEN-HOUR VIOLATIONS.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Suit has been filed in the United States District Court at Shreveport against the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for alleged violation of the law prohibiting the employment of trainmen engaged in interstate commerce for more than sixteen hours at a stretch. The first suit to be filed under the law, which went into effect on the first day of October, 1911, the company is charged with having employed a train crew under the law to a maximum fine of $500.

STRAP HANGERS HALF FARE.

Portland, Oreg., Aug. 31.—The City Council recently passed an ordinance requiring the street car company to permit passengers compelled to stand on heavily crowded cars to ride during rush hours for half fare. It is provided that tickets shall be sold at the rate of 12½ for 10, and that conductors shall collect the fare when a seat is available for the passenger. No opposition was raised by the street railway company against the passage of the ordinance.

QUINCY'S LABOR TEMPLE.

Quincy, Ill., Aug. 31.—The labor unions of this city have just secured title to the handsome lot on which a building was purchased for $3,500 and $2,500 was added for improvements. It is to be a commodious three-story building and is adequate for the needs of the labor movement, and it is expected that the formal opening will be made in the enterprise and plans of the Quincy unionists.

OPERATORS CHANGE VIEW

Washington, Aug. 31.—Fuel, a publication devoted to the coal industry, and issued at Chicago, in a recent issue commented on the success of United Mine Workers in securing an increased membership in the anthracite fields. It was pointed out that the unionization of the operators in some parts of the region viewed with alarm the great increase in membership, but that the opposite was the general proposition, had decided that it was better for the United Mine Workers to organize 75,000 members in a strong organization, as the United Mine Workers have done, than to have 150,000 unorganized men whose integrity and ability has been proven, and that the latter number, one of the most brilliant pages in the history of labor organization, in spite of the changed viewpoint of the operators regarding organization, Fuel says: "The reversal of opinion among the coal operators was largely brought about by the publication of the financial statements on the ground that a continuation of the old practices and hostility would only be disastrous to both capital and labor, and rejoicing that there was no manifest desire on the part of the United Mine Workers' organization to force the issue of recognition into the region. For the present, however, superintendents are under orders not to discharge men for membership in the union. They are not encouraged to help it, but are told to keep their hands off and live up to the contract. At the same time they are enforcing proper discipline."

UNCLE SAM'S PRINT SHOP.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Government Printing Office is one of the biggest institutions operated by the government. John Donnelly, Government Printer, expressed to the International Typographical Union, has just issued his report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912. The total expenses of maintenance and operation was $6,384,867.37, and the charges made for work done and operations by $631,618.34. Every piece of printing has its scheduled price, this for the reason that Congressmen and others are compelled to purchase printed matter when its reaches beyond a stipulated amount, save only in the case of the informing Congress. For example, members of Congress pay 50 cents per 100 sheets. The total year for extra speeches and documents, it is said, was paid out in salaries and wages $2,- 000,000. The total number of man-hours, days, leave of absence, or injury claims for the two years the big shop has been run without a charge against the service. The superintendent of documents sold 8,000,000 pounds of documents, which is an increase of 3,125,000 over last year.

LONGSHOREMEN VICTORIOUS.

Erie, Pa., Aug. 31.—The longshoremen's strike for only a few days against the Anchor Line has resulted in a complete victory and have returned to work. The Anchor Line has signed a written agreement employing the dock laborers through a contractor; agrees not to dock ships on Sunday, except to finish a ship, dock, or house to another, unless requiring fifteen minutes or over; agrees to pay men for overtime at 40 cents per hour. An increase of 5½ cents men have been receiving 40 cents per hour, also an increase of 2½ cents; also agrees to provide as much work as possible for the men. The Erie Board of Commerce, meeting at Scranton, President T. V. O'Connor, of the longshoremen, represented the local longshoremen in the negotiations.

POWER PRESSES INSTALLED.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Agreeable to a compromise effected between the Senate Committee on Printing and the Printers' Union a law was enacted by the last session of Congress whereby there shall be a gradual installing of power presses in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to execute a specific portion of the work of the Bureau. As a result of this law sixteen power presses have been installed and are now in operation. The volume of work at this bureau is increasing, and it is believed that the number of employes will not be reduced as the result of adding power presses. The engraving and printing of currency, bonds, &c., was all done on hand presses.

FREE INSTRUCTION.

Washington, Aug. 31.—It is stated in the Labor Clarion of San Francisco that the California School of Mechanical Arts has opened free evening classes in all trades where instruction will be given in pattern making, molding, foundry practice, blacksmithing, and machine shop practice. This instruction has been made possible by the action of Congress in a bill recently died, which sets apart a portion of her estate for the promotion of technical education, and provides training to the people of that State, and parties living in San Francisco. No time will be charged.

PROSECUTION-PERSECUTION.

Washington, Aug. 31.—From dispatches from Los Angeles state that the motion to quash the indictment against Olaf Tveitmoe charging bribery against Clarence Darrow in the dynamite conspiracy case, it is reported that all the judges of the Superior Court of Los Angeles have refused to sit in the case, and have requested that it be sent to an outside judge. If the case goes to trial the evidence in the former trial will be used, and it is said again, as always, that the prosecution will introduce affidavits of perjury and subornation of perjury instead of proceeding to trial. Later—The second trial has been set to begin October 1.

MAINTENANCE MEN ACTIVE.

St. Louis, Aug. 31.—President A. B. Lowe, of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, is in this city organizing. Good news of progress keeps coming in. Recently the Illinois Central Railroad Company, Georgia & Florida Railway, A substantial increase has also been granted to the Atlantic Coast Line and Gulf States Railway. On the Canadian Northern Quebec the increase has been granted ranging from 10 to 40 cents per day.

COMMISSION BILL SIGNED.

Washington, Aug. 31.—The Industrial Commission bill, which recently passed both houses of Congress, after going through the conference committee, has been signed by the President. The commission will consist of nine members, three of whom shall be employers, three shall be wage earners, and the organized labor, and the other three from other walks of life. The first appointments will be made in the immediate future.

LIBERAL TO CONVICTS.

Topeka, Kans., Aug. 31.—The warden of the Kansas State penitentiary has asked Gov. Stubbs to give prisoners one day's parole for every day they work at building State roads. The Governor has the power to comply with the request, but has not yet announced the acceptance of any convict.